

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 were originally filed in the present application.

Claims 1-36 were previously cancelled.

Claims 37-68 are pending in the present application.

Claims 37-39 and 49-51 were rejected in the June 1, 2006 Office Action.

Claims 42-48 and 54-68 were allowed in the June 1, 2006 Office Action. The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 40, 41, 52 and 53 were objected to in the June 1, 2006 Office Action. As their respective independent claims are allowable, as discussed below, these claims have not been amended to independent form.

Claims 37, 42, 49, 54, 61, and 65 were amended as requested by the Examiner, and the objections are believed obviated. Various other claims are amended accordingly to ensure common terminology.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 37-39 and 49-51 were rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,966,384 to *Felix, et al.* (hereafter "Felix") is view of U.S. Patent 6,101,168 to *Chen, et al.* ("Chen"). This rejection is traversed.

In ex-Parte examination of patent applications, the Patent Office bears the burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness. (MPEP § 2142; In re Fritch, 972 F.2d 1260, 1262, 23

U.S.P.Q.2d 1780, 1783 (Fed. Cir. 1992)). The initial burden of establishing a prima facie basis to deny patentability to a claimed invention is always upon the Patent Office. (MPEP § 2142; In re Oetiker, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445, 24 U.S.P.Q.2d 1443, 1444 (Fed. Cir. 1992); In re Piasecki, 745 F.2d 1468, 1472, 223 U.S.P.Q. 785, 788 (Fed. Cir. 1984)). Only when a prima facie case of obviousness is established does the burden shift to the Applicant to produce evidence of nonobviousness. (MPEP § 2142; In re Oetiker, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445, 24 U.S.P.Q.2d 1443, 1444 (Fed. Cir. 1992); In re Rijckaert, 9 F.3d 1531, 1532, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1955, 1956 (Fed. Cir. 1993)). If the Patent Office does not produce a prima facie case of unpatentability, then without more the Applicant is entitled to grant of a patent. (In re Oetiker, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445, 24 U.S.P.Q.2d 1443, 1444 (Fed. Cir. 1992); In re Grabiak, 769 F.2d 729, 733, 226 U.S.P.Q. 870, 873 (Fed. Cir. 1985)).

A prima facie case of obviousness is established when the teachings of the prior art itself suggest the claimed subject matter to a person of ordinary skill in the art. (In re Bell, 991 F.2d 781, 783, 26 U.S.P.Q.2d 1529, 1531 (Fed. Cir. 1993)). To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed invention and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on the Applicant's disclosure. (MPEP § 2142).

The discussion of Felix made in a previous response is hereby incorporated by reference.

Felix teaches transmitting data using a second channel and a second encoding scheme until an interruption in the transmission of data occurs at which point transmission continues on a first channel with a first encoding scheme. *Felix*, column 2, lines 56-60; column 3, lines 7-14; and column 3, lines 17-24. Felix discloses a controller that outputs an indication to stop transmission of data over the second channel when either: (1) all the data has been communicated to the remote unit; (2) an allotted time period has expired; or (3) the transmission has simply been interrupted. *Id.* at column 4, lines 42-58. In the first situation, Felix discloses that the remote unit will perform an acknowledgement of the last frames transmitted and that error control takes place when: (1) Acknowledging (ACK) packets have been received; and/or (2) Negative Acknowledgement (NAK) for messages whose sequence number has not been received even though later numbered messages have been received. *Id.* Felix in Figures 5 and 7 provides limited guidance on how data may be retransmitted in Steps 427 and 527, respectively. Steps 427 and 527 indicate that any retransmission of data occurs by transmitting the data at the first transmission rate within the first bandwidth utilizing the first spreading code modulation scheme. *Id.* at Figures 5 and 7; column 8, lines 41-51; and column 9, line 62 – column 10, line 5.

The Examiner does note that some retransmission in Felix's system can occur on the fundamental channel (assuming, as the Examiner does, that the supplemental channel corresponds to the claimed "first channel"). As Felix teaches in col. 2, lines 30-35, when data transmission stops, "any retransmission will take place utilizing the low-speed fundamental channel" (emphasis added).

As the claims require that the data rate of the second channel be higher than the data rate of the first channel, Felix's low-speed fundamental channel cannot qualify as the claimed second channel.

Thus, Felix fails to teach or disclose the limitations of sending at least one replacement data packet to said mobile station on a second channel at a second higher data rate; and communicating with a replacement data packet controller capable of receiving said at least one replacement data packet from said base station and incorporating said at least one replacement data packet into a data packet stream to replace one of: a missing data packet and an error data packet. Such limitations are required by independent Claims 37 and 49, as well as their respective dependent claims.

The Examiner now looks to Chen for relevant teachings. The Examiner references Chen's summary of the invention, where it teaches in col. 3, lines 28-45:

Alternately, the packet received in error can be retransmitted on an additional traffic channel which is independent of the traffic channel used to transmit the new packet. Since the retransmitted packet does not delay or impede the transmission of the new packet, the throughput rate is maintained during the retransmission of the packet received in error.

It is another object of the present invention to maximize the capacity of the communication channel by retransmitting the packet received in error with the minimum amount of energy such that the accumulation of the energy of the transmission and retransmission results in the correct decoding of the packet. The packet received in error can be retransmitted with less energy-per-bit than the new packet which is transmitted for the first time. At the destination device, the energy of each symbol in the packet received in error is accumulated with the energy of each symbol in the retransmitted packet. The accumulated symbols are then decoded.

As may be clearly seen, although Chen does teach in this passage that a retransmission can occur on an “independent channel”, there is no discussion at all of the relative data rates of any channels. The Examiner’s mention of a trade off between operation range and data rate is interesting, but not relevant, as there is no teaching that any trade off is necessary or considered in Chen’s system, or that the operation range is a necessary consideration.

In fact, a further review of Chen’s disclosure teaches that the retransmission can be made at a full data rate, or a lesser data rate (or at a constant or lesser symbol rate), but there appears to be no teaching at all that the system is capable of sending at least one replacement data packet to a mobile station on a second channel at a second higher data rate which is higher than said first data rate.

As Chen includes no teaching corresponding to the claim limitation, and both Chen and Felix teach directly away from the claim limitations, by teaching retransmission on a slower channel, no combination of these references can teach the claim limitations, and there can be no motivation in these references to modify either Felix, Chen, or any combination of them to meet the claim limitations.

As the Examiner is surely aware, the motivation to combine or modify must be specific to the actual teachings sought to be combined. "In holding an invention obvious in view of a combination of references, there must be some suggestion, motivation, or teaching in the prior art that would have led a person of ordinary skill in the art to select the references and combine them in the way that would produce the claimed invention." (Karsten Mfg. Corp. v. Cleveland Golf Co., 242 F.3d 1376, 1385 (Fed. Cir. 2001) emphasis added). "When the references are in the same field as that of the

applicant's invention, knowledge thereof is presumed. However, the test of whether it would have been obvious to select specific teachings and combine them as did the applicant must still be met by identification of some suggestion, teaching, or motivation in the prior art, arising from what the prior art would have taught a person of ordinary skill in the field of the invention." (In re Dance, 160 F.3d 1339, 1343 (Fed. Cir. 1998), emphasis added).

The Examiner must show a specific teaching in the art to make the specific modification to Felix, Chen, or the Felix/Chen combination to have the second "retransmission" channel have a higher data rate than the first data rate. There is no such teaching or suggestion in the cited art, and so the rejections of claims 37 and 49, and their respective dependent claims, are traversed.

All rejections are traversed, and reconsideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

For the reasons given above, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims and that this application be passed to issue. If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *jmockler@munckbutrus.com*.

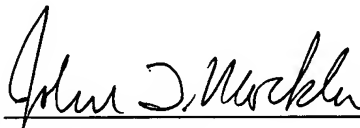
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

MUNCK BUTRUS P.C.

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P.O. Drawer 800889
Dallas, Texas 75380
Phone: (972) 628-3600
Fax: (972) 628-3616
E-mail: *jmockler@munckbutrus.com*



John T. Mockler
Registration No. 39,775